

***Sericomyia silentis* (Harris) (Diptera: Syrphidae) reported from Northamptonshire.** – The large hoverfly *Sericomyia silentis* is a common and generally widespread species in Britain, with almost 3000 records from some 830 10 km grid squares included in the *Provisional Atlas of British Hoverflies*. However, a glance at the distribution map in the *Atlas* reveals large tracts within which this fly is very local, or even, apparently, absent. In particular it seems to be a rare insect in the south and east midlands of England.

It was, therefore, a pleasant surprise to be shown a specimen of *S. silentis* netted on 09.vi.2005 by Dr Kathleen Ann Smith from a restricted wetland area included in the Lings Wood LNR, Northampton (Grid ref. SP 803641). The fly was spotted at rest on tall vegetation adjacent to the "Dew Pond" part of the reserve. This is a small, very shallow pool, tending to dry out in summer, surrounded by deciduous woodland, and well encumbered with dead logs and other debris (thanks to the activities of youths from adjacent estates). Lings Wood mostly grows on a fine, podsolic sand, which would probably have supported heathland in the 19th century before trees were planted.

This may be the first record of *S. silentis* from Northants. (VC32); there are not even any dots on the *Atlas* map from the Peterborough area, much better recorded for hoverflies than the rest of the county.

I am grateful to Dr Smith for permission to publish her record, and to the Beds., Cambs., Northants and Peterborough Wildlife Trust for encouraging insect recording on reserves such as Lings Wood. – GAVIN BOYD, 91 Fullingdale Road, Northampton NN3 2PZ.

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## INDOOR MEETINGS

### 8 March 2005

The President, Dr M. R. WILSON announced the deaths of Dr D. H. Howton, Professor Sir John Dacie and Dame Miriam Rothschild.

The following persons were approved as members by Council: Miss Arabella K.L. Bramley, Dr Andrew W. Coleman, Dr Roy C. Hilton, Mr Adrian P. Knowles, Mr Michael Massie and Mrs Emma Ross.

The President reported on a discussion with a colleague concerning the date of arrival in Britain of the grey squirrel flea. He wondered whether there had been any deliberate introductions of insects into Britain that has succeeded in becoming established. Several suggestions were made, including continental strains of the Large Copper and Large Blue butterflies, non-native strains of the honeybee and some insects introduced as biological controls for pests, such as *Rhizophagus grandis* (Gyll.) for the control of the great spruce bark beetle, *Dendroctonus micans* Kug.

The Ordinary meeting was then followed by the AGM and the Presidential Address.

### 10 May 2005

The President, Dr M. TELFER, opened the meeting.

Mr A. J. HALSTEAD showed some live flower chafer beetles, *Oxythyrea funesta* (Poda) sent to him from a garden in Provence, France, where they were damaging rose flowers. This species does not occur in Britain.